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Venezuela's "Manana."

In the bright lexicon of South American youths there is no word so useful as "manana." In some cases it may be but the refuge of the procrastinating, putting off till tomorrow a disaster which threatens today. In others it may prove the protection of the weaker party until the stronger one can be made aware of facts not any too apparent at first glance. Which of the two represents the present Venezuelan negotiations will be learned in time.

Manana—tomorrow—is a safe answer to almost any question in the southern republics. It gives time for the heated blood to cool, for the contending partisans to get together. It is the natural, the expected, answer of the tropics, where the seasons run their equable course without jostling one another for place; where there is no "crowded hour" for high or low, but instead the time-honored siesta for everybody.

It is not surprising, then, that Venezuela, in either of the two ways of looking at the situation, seeks to go slow. President Castro makes claims which, if they can be proven, entitle him to consideration greater than he has heretofore been accorded by popular opinion here. His declaration that foreign syndicates have willfully and persistently violated the plain terms of their concessions and have instigated and maintained revolutions in order to validate, if possible, their unlawful acts, naturally impels this Government to inquire closely before giving its official backing to private claims against another country.

Then there is the announcement that the State Department, before passing judgment, will await the full text of Castro's official reply to the representations it presented recently through Minister Bowen. The latter termed the dictator's rejoinder "impertinent and insulting," and his word may be accepted as not subject to dispute. But may not Castro set up the claim that he, the republic's President, and very haughty about his official dignity, too, found it necessary to be outspoken in support of his own dignity and his country's position? Unofficial representations have already been made directly to President Roosevelt along these lines, and he will await the State Department's inquiries as to their accuracy.

Rumors of Minister Bowen's transfer to another diplomatic post must be understood as coming entirely from Venezuelan agents. Undoubtedly any American who plays the game better than his opponent does not thereby increase the latter's wish for further combats of the same sort with the likelihood of the same results.

Success alone sustains the southern republics in stable government against the many ambitious revolutionists who would supplant the rulers of today. When Castro's reply is received in full and his official representations are made, there may be these other considerations of policy in addition to the possibility that the asphalt claims are not above all criticism. In this condition of affairs the fact that Castro's cry of "manana" attracts greater attention than it would usually in official circles, and that President Roosevelt does not contemplate immediate action must impress all observers as being more than ordinarily significant.

Russell Sage.

Living to a green old age has been the topic upon which many theorists have commented, but with much less force than Russell Sage has acted. In his eighty-ninth year he has at last decided to quit "the Street" and get what rest he can in the remaining years of his life and such enjoyment as comes from leisure after four score years of nerve-racking money-making, most of the time in Wall Street.

The most natural question that comes to mind in connection with his retirement is: What has it profited him that he has given his whole life to money-making and cannot, in the extreme limit of human probability, hope for many years in which to enjoy his one hundred millions? To this the answer must be that the quest of gold had crowded out of his life the things that most men hold dear, and that practically his only pleasure was the increase of his hoard.

Still, the life of Russell Sage, while not the model for an ideal career, is not without its fine points. His careful living, his frugal habits, enabled him to disprove the Wall Street adage that the man in business on "the Street" is "old at thirty, stale

at forty, and dead at fifty." In his career the decade from his sixtieth to his seventieth year found him the master of the financial world in the metropolis, and not until thirty-nine years after the limit fixed in the adage has he laid down his business cares. As his associates see him passing from the field of their activities, they credit him with having always fought fairly, never asking quarter, but often giving it to a rival without the asking.

One of Mr. Sage's peculiarities has been that he has always thought in hundreds. He thinks he will live to be a century old, because of his abstemious habits. If he will also take lessons from Andrew Carnegie even the lambs he sheared in Wall Street may not begrudge him the millions he stored up for his "rainy day."

A Counter-Irritant.

Standard Oil has spoken. That is something it doesn't do except under great provocation. When it does speak it is because it feels some answer is better than none.

In the storm provoked by the Congressionalists' ministers over acceptance of the Rockefeller hundred thousand contribution, H. H. Rogers, one of that astute financial king's fellow-navigators of the commercial sea, has felt called upon to defend the captain of the ship. Consequently he has let out a little oil on the troubled waters in this fashion:

Ministers say queer things. Dr. Washington Gladden says that everybody knows that John D. Rockefeller has obtained his money the hard way. With as much reason I could say that everybody knows that Dr. Gladden would not trust the Ten Commandments for ten days with the deacons of his Church because they would surely break some of them and bend the rest.

Evidently Mr. Rogers is not a deacon. There is an esprit du corps among deacons. They don't put blowholes in one another's armor. That's bad form. Moreover, there is no rule in any compendium of polite etiquette that permits a layman to call "You're another" to a wearer of the cloth without there be some Cordovaesque concurrent circumstances.

Nor does Mr. Rogers bolster up his case by such a quotation as this:

Slavery in certain sections of the United States was legal until President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Rebates on railroads were just as legal until the passage of the interstate commerce act.

Corporations have the best legal talent at their command and they know a crime's a crime—only their rule of action adds: "If you're found out." Trying to explain away present day objections by saying some violation was not against the law a dozen years ago sounds very amateurish. But as a counter-irritant, if any were needed, in the pending controversy, the Rogers statement may be worth more than a high-priced lawyer. It may yet, somehow, save John D. the money.

Poet and Prophet.

It is wonderful how often the poet is blessed with the divine gift of prophecy. You can find a prophecy in Shakespeare for almost anything that has come to pass since the great dramatist laid down his quill, or is coming to pass, or may ever come to pass. And now that the war with Russia has taken such form that one may speak of it, as it were, as though its career were known—and there are not many persons who take bets on the other side—it is interesting to note that the whole story of Kuropatkin's retreat from Liao-Yang was written in throbbing verse as long ago as 1813.

Of course, the names were simply made up—not even a poet could catch the prophetic whispering of such a name as Kuropatkin in advance. But the story is all there, as the following will signify:

The Russians they stuck close to him  
All on the road from Moscow.  
There was Tormazow and Jemelov  
And all the others that end in "ow."  
Milorodovitch and Jalidovitch  
And all the others that end in "itch."  
Schamscheff, Souchozanoff,  
And Schepaleff,  
Waslitschikoff, Kostomarov,  
And Tchegolokoff,  
And all the others that end in "off."  
Rajefsky and Novoroffsky,  
And Rlofsky,  
And all the others that end in "efsky."  
Oscharoffsky and Rostofsky,  
And all the others that end in "ofsky."  
If there is any correspondent with either army in the Liao-Tung peninsula who has the ability to paint a more suggestive, more vivid, or more comprehensive picture of the Russian forces, his copy has been shamefully blue-penciled. But there is more:

And Platoff he played them off,  
And Shouvaloff he shovelled them off,  
And Markoff he marked them off,  
And Krosnoff he crossed them off,  
And Tchuoff he touched them off,  
And Borodoff he bored them off,  
And Kutousoff he cut them off,  
And Porenzoff he pared them off,  
And Woronzoff he worried them off,  
And Dookoff he doctored them off,  
And Rodionoff he flogged them off.

According to report all those several methods were used in the flight from Mukden. That they did not keep off the Japs is no concern of the prophet. He cannot make his poetry a sordid list of casualties. Nor, as poet and prophet, could he look too long at one thing only. He did not forget that Jason and his band of rollicking wanderers who went down to sea in ships. Read this:

And last of all an admiral came,  
A terrible man with a terrible name,  
A name which you all know by sight  
Very well:  
But which you can speak and no one can spell.

Of course, there is more than this. The inspiration covered much more

ground than the newspaper correspondents now at the front. But this is enough—enough to prove that poetry and prophecy go ever hand in hand.

And hereafter let those who remember the campaign in Manchuria speak no more of Robert Southey—for it is he who wrote these lines—as Southey the poet. He is Southey the prophet, or he is nothing.

Russia Must Choose.

While peace overtures are being proposed by the newspapers and denied by the authorities of St. Petersburg, the "upper classes" of Russia violently opposing all thought of peace excepting with the Czar's armies victorious, and Russia working closer and closer to the wall of bankruptcy, there is war still in progress in Manchuria.

It may all be true, as Russia says, that the peace negotiations must originate with Japan. It may be true, also, that Russia will never pay indemnity nor cede territory. It may even be that Russia does not desire peace, and that all these stories have been instigated for some one's ulterior purposes. But the troops are in the field just the same.

Japan, no doubt, would prefer to spare her men further fighting. It is probable her generals have tempered their tactics with this reflection ever since the fall of Mukden. But if it should develop that these Russian declarations are earnest, that the Czar really means what he says, there may still be battles in Manchuria and I regret-to-reports sent to St. Petersburg.

Only two conditions are possible: Either Russia is willing to end the war as a nation beaten and sore and in distress; or Japan is to keep on fighting.

It is evident that Tokyo waits on St. Petersburg to take her choice.

The Supreme Court could hardly frost the snow law in this weather.

A New England doctor has discovered a cure for spinal meningitis, and the hope has been expressed that the new cure will enable Tom Watson's "Democratic leadership" to sit up and take notice.

The Corporation Counsel has framed a set of rules telling doctors when to report contagious diseases, and the new cure will be neglected to tell them how to diagnose.

Without charity in private life you're a sounding cymbal. With charity in public affairs you're a shining mark.

The "Santo Domingo Improvement Company" can scarcely base its claim on the results it can show in Santo Domingo—things seem to be pretty much in the rough down there.

Which will the President mediate first, the war between Russia and Japan or that between Yazoo City and a young colored man? The latter may be the harder, as the colored man hasn't run as far as the Russians.

Good morning, New York! Was it a hold-up or a subway fall-in last night?

Up in Harrisburg, Pa., they are passing what they call "ripper" bills. In Washington legislative halls the bills are not named, but the ripping goes on just the same.

Those who have kept up with Filipino thought say the dusky islanders have developed the Tom L. Johnson idea of a 5-cent fare since they found out they are to pay for the Congressional junket this summer.

Senator Kean of New Jersey has been to the White House with a new grievance against the river and harbor appropriation bill. There have been so many fish stories about the bill that one more or less is no cause for comment.

"There is no pleasure in the life of a Methodist minister," says Bishop Moore—"nor in the life of a Venezuelan minister," adds Minister Bowen.

Russia is assailing America for promoting peace. The results of her assaults on Japan for promoting war insure our safety.

In New York capitalists are trying to get rid of an ice plant. Give it to Mrs. Reader—her contact with the frozen mitt and the icy heart has been so constant of late as to make an ice plant look like a stove.

Jiu-Jitsu is the art of defense, but the Panama Canal Commission had taken no lessons. The President had.

A trio of engineers will remain with the new organization of the Panama Canal Commission—they were civil.

The city of Cleveland, Ohio, has bought a garbage plant. Washington is contented with filing a delinquent corporation as a means of bettering the situation.

A tramp in Limerick found a fortune in an old coat. Russell Sage's cousin, perhaps.

"Flatbush Subway Held Up" by Mr. Kennedy," is the headline in a Brooklyn journal. We had begun to think nothing could keep a subway up.

Oyama is reported to be maneuvering for another battle. It's a cinch that he'll not have one given to him by the Russians.

The Texas authorities are about as near to the "octopus" they're chasing as the President is to the Texas jack rabbits now, and the authorities have had a three-day start.

THE WHISTLING WIND.

O'er frosty eaves the whistling wind  
Wrestles with furious shapes of snow,  
While at each door and window dinned  
His menace shrill is heard below.

But they who seek the fireside nook  
Where none the wintry clamor dreads,  
Hear echoes still of bird and brook  
And fair the leafless landscape spreads.

And thus the soul by love kept warm,  
When all around seems desolate,  
Hears kindly voices through the storm  
Despite the whistling wind of fate.

WILLIAM TIFTON TALBOT.

PRESIDENT TO DINE  
ON STEWED PRUNES  
Rough Riders to Feast Him  
at San Antonio.  
PROGRAM OF THE REUNION  
Cowboys Will Have Former Commander  
Exclusively to Themselves at  
Two Sessions.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 1.—Arrangements are complete in every detail for President Roosevelt's visit here, April 7, during the reunion of the Rough Riders.

The features of the program are two sessions at which the former colonel of the Rough Riders will be exclusively in the company of his former comrades, no outsiders being present.

The President will arrive here from Austin on the night of April 6 in a special car drawn by an engine decorated by the figure of a Rough Rider on the front stack. The train will remain in the yards of the International and Great Northern railway under guard all night.

The reception committee will greet the President at 9:30 o'clock Friday morning. The formal program will then begin.

Visit to Fort Sam Houston.

First is the visit to Fort Sam Houston. The city marshal, with sheriffs and constables, will form a bodyguard. A troop of regulars, a mounted police, and the President's escort will be in line.

Directly behind the President's carriage will march the Grand Army and the United Confederate Veterans arm in arm.

From the post the President proceeds to Travis Park, where the children of fifty-three schools will be grouped, as at the late President McKinley's visit. Each child is expected to come with an armful of flowers. The President's carriage wheels will roll over a carpet of fragrant blossoms. "America" will be sung by a chorus.

Stewed Prunes Dinner.

After the formal welcome to the city, the President will lunch with the Rough Riders. Regular army rules will prevail. One tent will be big enough to seat the entire membership, and there luncheon will be served. The main dish will be stewed prunes.

This luncheon is exclusively for the President and Rough Riders. No outsiders will be admitted. Guards with six shooters will enforce the desired exclusiveness.

After luncheon a formal business session will be held in the President's tent. Officers will be elected and the President will make an informal speech.

Expensive Feast.

In the afternoon the President will be taken to a hotel for an hour and a half, preliminary to the business men's banquet at 12:50 a plate.

At 9:30 o'clock in the evening the President will close the day by meeting the Rough Riders in the hotel parlors. This is again exclusively for members of that organization.

Secret Service men have already arrived to prepare for the President's visit.

The event will be a gala day in the history of the town. Special trains will bring in thousands.

Two hundred Rough Riders will attend the reunion. They come from as far as Washington on the northwest and Massachusetts on the northeast.

Mounted on the Texas steers, as they were when Roosevelt was lieutenant colonel of the regiment, in 1898, they will be constantly at the President's side. The cheer they will give when the President steps from his car will be heard in Mexico, they say.

Takes a Five-Mile Ride  
On Last Working Day

Notwithstanding the fact that the last working day of President Roosevelt was a busy one, the President yesterday got on his horse and took a five-mile ride through Rock Creek Park and the suburbs, going at a good gallop all the time. During the morning he received many callers and attended to the final arrangements for his long trip through the South and Southwest. When he was not besieged by visitors he was closeted with Secretary Loeb talking over plans.

As the time for his departure has drawn nearer, the President has become more and more eager to get away from the terrible grind he has undergone for the past four months, and there will be no happier man on earth than he when he steps aboard the train tomorrow morning for his seven weeks' tour.

Short Stops in Order.

Short stops will be in order until the President reaches Texas, where he will spend a week. In Kentucky and the Indian Territory, through which he passes, the President will make a number of speeches, but the one he will make at Louisville is the only one that will occupy more than a few minutes in the delivering. At San Antonio, Tex., on April 7, he will address his old comrades, the Rough Riders, whose reunion will be held on that day. The next day he will start on a week's hunting trip in Texas, part of the program for which is a jack rabbit drive, arranged for the President's special benefit. After that the President's train will head straight for Colorado, and for five or six weeks the President will rough it. Mountain lions and bear will be his objects, and all civilization will be left behind.

None of the President's speeches have been prepared in advance, and it is probable that they will be upon general matters.

In one of his speeches, most probably the one he will deliver at San Antonio, the President will express his desire to have Congress make an appropriation for a monument at New Orleans to commemorate the battle of New Orleans in the defense of New Orleans in 1815. In the opinion of the President, by no means the least of President Jackson's achievements.

The President has been keeping bachelor hall since the departure of Mrs. Roosevelt and the children for the South. He has at present as his guest Robert Goebel, of New York, who has been here a few days from his place near Warrenton, Va.

Municipal Politicians  
Ignorant and Degraded  
City Missionary Severely Arraigns Misrule in  
Big Towns in Address Before Methodist Conference.

"The politician of today seeks the influence of the saloon rather than that of the church. If he preaches civic virtue, he is snowed under at the ballot boxes. Political corruption thrives in cities, and it is astonishing to see what men aspire to rule in our largest towns. They are ignorant and degraded. Some could not tell you whether Washington or England was the first President of this country, and many have never seen the Constitution."

This crushing arraignment of municipal politics was made last night by James Ingram at Foundry Church, where a city missionary and church extension society meeting was held in connection with the Baltimore annual conference of Methodist Episcopal ministers in session here. Mr. Ingram has long been identified with city evangelization, and he took this for the theme of his address.

Points of Address.

After being introduced by A. B. Brown, of this city, who presided over the meeting, Mr. Ingram said:

"This matter of city evangelization is one of the greatest problems we have to face. Not only are many foreigners coming to this country and halting in the congested centers of population, but many young people gravitate to our cities from the country. They are induced to do this by the glitter and ease of city life.

"Now, let us freely admit in the start that the efforts made to solve this problem have not been commensurate with its difficulties. We have not had sufficient money and consecrated labor in the work. You notice I put money first. If we had a Rockefeller to pour his wealth into our treasury, or, better still, if all our people would give their money to the church in reasonable proportion, there would be an improvement. But we must also come to our knees and pray for the revival we desire.

Home and Church Decline.

"It has been shown that in our cities two things are happening: the decline of the home and the decline of the church, both of which are disastrous. One of the foes against us in the cities is greed. We are up against the selfish-

The monthly summary of crop conditions issued by the Weather Bureau says:

"Winter wheat is very promising, practically all reports indicating that this crop has come through the winter in unusually fine condition in the principal winter wheat States. The outlook for the Pacific Coast is also promising, except in portions of southeastern Washington, where considerable winter killed.

"Good progress was made with seeding of spring wheat and oats, the seeding of oats being nearly completed in Illinois and Missouri, and in the more Southern States the early sown is coming up to good stands. Spring wheat seeding is unusually well advanced in the southern portion of the spring wheat region, and was in progress at the close of the month in the extreme north portion.

"Throughout the central valleys the soil was in fine condition for plowing during most of the month, and this work is well advanced. Some corn has been planted as far north as Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and North Carolina, while farther south a considerable part of the crop has been planted, and some is up.

"Reports indicate that peach buds have been extensively killed in the central valleys and Central Gulf States, but in the Atlantic coast districts peaches have been but little injured so far. The reports respecting other fruits are generally encouraging.

"Some cotton has been planted in Texas and in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, but practically none elsewhere, and but little land has been prepared for this crop in the central districts."

ACCUSED OF UTTERING  
FORGED PAPER

"Where did you get that check?" asked John Krouse, a grocery man at Twelfth street and Florida avenue northeast, of a small boy, who purchased some raisins, figs, dates, cake, and candy and tendered a check for \$14 in payment.

"That boy standing on the corner there told me to come in and buy those things, and get the change, and he would give me some of the money," replied the little fellow.

"Well, this check is bogus, and I think he is a forger," said Krouse, who started after the youngster at the corner.

The latter was Harold Turner, seventeen years old, of New York city, and he met Krouse's display of inquisitiveness with energetic sprinting.

He escaped temporarily, but Detective Johnson and Police Constable Dawson finally landed him at the race track, at the instance of Frank Solans, proprietor of the Beuning Hotel, who charges Turner with having passed a bogus check on his clerk.

PLANS TO IMPROVE  
INDUSTRIAL HOME

Plans are being considered by Building Inspector Ashford for a heating, lighting and water supply plant for the new Industrial Home School for Colored Children, which is to be erected on the District's tract of land at Blue Plains.

Four cottages or dormitories, one house for the teachers and a main school building, besides the structure to house the heating, lighting and water supply plants for this institution.

PRESIDENT'S ACTION  
HEARTILY INDORSED  
Civic Center Favors His Recommendations—Election of Officers  
Held.

Unanimous indorsement of President Roosevelt's action in recommending in his last annual message the appointment of a commission on housing and health conditions in Washington was made by the Civic Center at its annual meeting last night in the Public Library. The subject was liberally discussed by Dr. George M. Kober, Charles F. Weller, and C. G. Clark. Dr. Max West put in the form of a resolution the recommendation of the Civic Center that the recommendation be repeated by the President in his message to the next Congress.

The Rev. Alexander Kent presided at the meeting.

A suggestion which will appeal to all housewives that was made by Miss Eliza A. Vinton, who asked aid for a proposed training school for servants, Miss Vinton said that the scheme had not yet been thoroughly worked out, but that she would be glad to discuss details with anyone interested either at or after the meeting.

Mrs. Eugenia Weller gave a talk on social settlement work including a description of the industrial classes and other features of the work at Neighborhood House, 456 N street southwest.

Treasurer C. C. Clark made his report, showing that there was about \$50 available in the treasury.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, Dr. George M. Kober; secretary, Dr. Max West; treasurer, C. C. Clark; Civic Center Committee, Prof. Edward A. Foy, Dr. Charles P. Nell, Dr. Emily Y. O'Brien, Dr. C. C. Clark, Miss Alice C. Fletcher, Dr. Frank R. Culler, Miss Ellen A. Vinton, Mrs. T. L. Cole, Mrs. F. V. Coville, Mrs. C. F. Weller, C. F. Nesbit, Edward L. Burchard, the Rev. Alexander Kent, E. D. Shaw, Dr. T. S. Palmer, Dr. Max West, and Mrs. J. A. Gilliland.

Announcement was made that the first public playground dinner would be given in P. M. Hall, 1012 Ninth street northwest, on Friday evening at 6 o'clock. It will be a dollar dinner and in addition a collection will be taken for the benefit of the playgrounds. Interest in these open air spaces for the children will be greatly heightened during the ensuing year, Mr. Weller stated. Clement Planning, who has long been engaged in such work in New York and other cities, would come to Washington this summer.

RUNAWAY HORSE RAISES  
A DEAL OF EXCITEMENT  
Holds Right of Way Down Sixteenth  
Street for Nearly a Mile.  
Finally Captured.

Fourteenth street northwest was the scene of one of the most exciting runaways that has occurred in Washington for years yesterday afternoon, when a horse attached to buggy owned by Michael Morris, of 304 M street, Georgetown, dashed down the street for almost a mile before it stopped.

William F. Dunn, of the Normandie Hotel, in his endeavors to stop the animal, was knocked down and slightly injured. He refused to go to a hospital, but went to the hotel.

The horse halted for a few seconds, turned into New York avenue, where Dunn was injured, and ran to Ninth and G streets northwest, where it was captured.

The animal was left standing near Fourteenth and Corcoran streets, and is believed to have been frightened by the clanging of street car bells. On the wrong side of the thoroughfare the animal walked a few paces, and then broke into a gallop. It turned Thomas Circle at hair raising speed. The wagon bounded up and down on the street, and the shafts were jarred loose. At New York avenue one side of the shafts became dislocated. Persons crossing the street were yelled at by those on the pavement, and some fell.

Drivers had to guide their animals on the car tracks and there was great confusion. At Ninth and G streets the shafts dropped off. With these dangling at his heels the horse was about to increase his speed again when captured by a policeman.

STATE AFTER DEATH  
SUBJECT OF LECTURE

Henry Hotchner, the New York theosophist, who has just returned to the East after a seven months' lecture tour in the Middle West, gave a public lecture last night at Confederate Veterans' Hall, Eleventh and E streets northwest, under the auspices of the Washington Theosophical Society. He spoke on "Death and the Hereafter."

SOFT COAL OPERATORS  
YIELD TO THE MINERS

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., April 1.—There will be no strike among the soft coal miners in central Pennsylvania this year because of an agreement reached by the representatives of the coal operating companies at a meeting held here today at the Hotel Walton.

The demand of the miners for a continuation of the present wage scale was granted for a period extending over one year from April 1. Though the meeting was a short one, it is known that a majority of the companies favored the proposition to accede to the miners' demand. There was a strong disposition to avert trouble which would involve about 50,000 men, and place \$20,000,000 worth of property in jeopardy. The worth of property in jeopardy is \$2 cents a ton for pick mining.

WILLIAM THOMAS HELD  
ON CHARGE OF BIGAMY

Bigamy was the charge recorded against William Thomas, colored, on Monday at the Eighth precinct last night. Susie Jones, living on M street northwest, is the complainant. It is alleged that Thomas was married in 1897, and, after having lived with his wife for several years, left her. He did not get a divorce, it is said, but married Susie several months ago.

The two women confronted him in the station last night and positively identified him.